

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

Public Hearing – March 20, 2012  
Energy & Technology Committee  
Testimony Submitted by Chairman Kevin DelGobbo

**Senate Bill No. 448 - AN ACT CONCERNING CABLE TELEVISION EQUIPMENT AND THE DISCLOSURE OF RATES FOR CERTAIN SERVICES OFFERED BY TELEPHONE AND CABLE COMPANIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding Senate Bill No. 448 - An Act Concerning Act Concerning Cable Television Equipment and the Disclosure of Rates for Certain Services Offered by Telephone and Cable Companies. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony on specific sections enumerated below.

Senate Bill No. 448 would require each community antenna television company, holder of a certificate of cable franchise authority and holder of a certificate of video franchise authority to provide an option for customers to buy any equipment for which the video provider currently charges a monthly fee. Senate Bill No. 448 would also require each telephone company, community antenna television company, holder of a certificate of cable franchise authority and holder of a certificate of video franchise authority to clearly identify pricing options on their web site and in certain written materials.

The Authority supports the idea of video service equipment being made available for purchase rather than as a monthly lease. As evidenced by the telecommunications industry in the 1970s and 1980s, consumers' ability to purchase telephone equipment, rather than lease it, led to the development of new telephone handsets and competition in that industry. In addition to any savings consumers may experience through the purchase of video service equipment, equipment available for purchase may also provide new options and features which are not currently available to consumers with the equipment that they currently lease from their video providers.

The Authority also fully supports the web pricing requirements outlined in Section 2 of the act. Video providers are no longer required to file tariffs with the PURA and the requirement that they post this information on their web sites would offer consumers the ability to review the prices of the services they purchase as well as afford them the ability to compare those services and prices with those of competing service providers.

PURA welcomes the opportunity to work further with the Committee on this bill to further address the concerns raised herein.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact DEEP's legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance at 424-3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov)